



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

No. 148

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, November 14, 2016, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You sustain us with Your unfailing love, for Your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Use our Senators to accomplish Your purposes in our Nation and world. May they tackle the complex challenges of our times with the confidence that Your providence will prevail. Train them in the school of humility so that they will walk safely without stumbling. May they remember that humility precedes honor.

Lord, bless and protect America, making it a land that provides freedom's lamp to our world. Incline each citizen to hear Your words of truth and to apply his or her heart to knowledge.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). The Democratic leader is recognized.

### THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in this Republican Congress—especially as we head out for yet another unearned recess—I feel compelled to comment on how Republicans have treated the President of the United States during the last 8 years.

History will look back and note that the Republicans in Congress treated President Obama with unprecedented disrespect. No one expected them to agree with everything that he did or tried to do, but Americans deserve better than the way Republicans behaved toward President Obama.

A day or two after President Obama was elected the first time, Republicans met here in Washington—all the Republican big names—and they came to two conclusions. No. 1, Obama would not be reelected. They failed on that one quite miserably. But No. 2, they would oppose everything that President Obama tried to do, and they have stuck by that without any question.

America would be better off with a responsible opposition party that found a way to make its differences with President Obama clear without treating him with such contempt. But, sadly, that is not what they saw from Republicans over the past 8 years.

President Obama is the first President to be denied a hearing on his budget. He is the first President to be denied a hearing on a Supreme Court nominee. President Obama is the first President to be asked to show his birth certificate. President Obama is the first President who has faced over 500 filibusters here in the Senate. In this Republican Senate, President Obama

will see fewer nominations confirmed than any President in many, many decades.

Republicans have not done their basic work of government, and they have not stood by their commitments to restore regular order or to pass a budget.

Republicans have spent their time doing everything in their power to discredit President Obama and empower Donald Trump. That is not a legacy that any Senator should be proud of.

I listened to public radio this morning, and the Arizona Republic, from the big city of Phoenix, right next to Nevada, for the first time in its history of more than 120 years—for the first time in its history—endorsed a Democratic Presidential nominee. It had never been done before. It is a Republican newspaper. I listened to the editor of the newspaper on the radio this morning saying they couldn't. Why? Because of Donald Trump.

The legacy of Donald Trump should not be anything the Republicans are proud of. The only thing Republicans have done this year was to prove that they are the party of Trump. They are the party of Trump. They say they are not the party of Trump, but they are. They would have us believe that Trump just fell out of the sky and somehow mysteriously became the nominee of the party, but that is not the way it is.

Everything he has said, stood for, done in this bizarre campaign he has run has come, filtered up, from what has gone on here in the Republican Senate—disagreeing with everything—anything—President Obama wanted.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S6251